

Caterham School - Nominated for Independent Schools Award 2013

in the top 50 independent schools in the country), but not the tools to flourish at university and beyond because they had just been well prepared for the demands of the examination system. We wanted to achieve the same grades, or better, but in a different way; by teaching students to be metacognitive and manage their own learning.

Thus the “Learning to Learn” initiative was born – a programme uniting students of all ages, teachers, and parents in one common aim to make our students true independent, self-sufficient learners. We wanted in particular to train and influence the parent body; children spend more time at home than in school, thus advice given in school can sometimes be undermined by the well-meaning parent e.g. the common fallacy that no child can learn whilst listening to music. The quality of teaching at Caterham is of a consistently high standard (we were the only independent school in the country to be in the top 40 for both Value-Added and raw results in 2011) and our classroom philosophy has long been to create an atmosphere of enquiry amongst our students. The Learning to Learn programme was therefore aimed at providing the pillars ges. We

recognised the need to teach topics such as thinking skills, effective learning, presentation skills, and even how to handle stress and anxiety explicitly. In particular we wanted to teach them to manage information.... much of what is learnt factually at school may be superseded or even irrelevant by the time a student enters the world of work.

The plan and implementation

We introduced “Learning to Learn” lessons to the timetable for First and Second coaching programs Study

Study Champion (peer mentoring in a specific subject).

We run parent training evenings covering topics such as “The Six Thinking Hats”, “Using

